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Remarks

Claims 1-58 are pending in this Application, with claims 22-32, 39-46, 48 and 50-58 being allowed and claims 4-12, 14, 20, and 35-37 being allowable. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 33 have been amended and claims 3, 4, 36, 41, 47 and 49 have been canceled. As a result, claims 1, 2, 5-35, 37-40, 42-46, 48 and 50-58 are at issue.

Consistent with the Second Reply to the Final Office Action, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 33 to include the subject matter of dependent claims that were indicated as allowable in the Final Office Action. The amendments to claims 1 and 33 are fully supported by Applicants' disclosure and do not introduce any new matter.

In the Second Reply, Applicants attempted to amend independent claim 41, however, the proposed amendment was not entered. To resolve the matter, Applicants have canceled claim 41. Applicants thank the Examiner for discussing the present Application, including claim 41, during a telephone conversation with Applicants' counsel on November 3, 2003.

Applicants submit that claims 1, 2, 5-35, 37-40, 42-46, 48 and 50-58 are allowable over the art of record.

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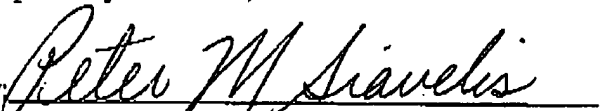
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe the Application is in a condition for allowance, and respectfully request early notice of the same. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned attorney if the Examiner has any questions concerning this Reply, or if it will expedite the progress of this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

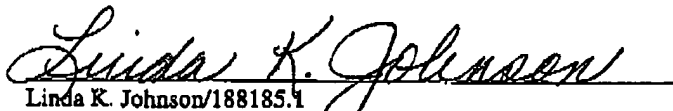
Date: November 19, 2003

By


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this document is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner John B. Walsh, Art Unit No. 3676, at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on November 19, 2003 to Fax No. 1-703-872-9327.


Linda K. Johnson/188185.1

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